efficiently. At the same time, favorable contacts with American Commissioners, an American Governor-General, and a critical visiting Secretary of War had to be maintained.

Placidly the Speaker began by insisting against opposition that the Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress be adopted. As placidly he began preparing himself for his job by studying parliamentary law and procedure. He gave evidence of his fairness by treating the minority with the maximum consideration. Within a short space of time no one doubted that Speaker Osmeila was as much Speaker of the Philippine Assembly as Thomas B. Reed had ever been in the zenith of his career as Speaker of the House of Representatives in the American Congress.

Secretary of War Taft had returned to the Philippines in 1907 not merely to open formally the Philippine Assembly but to observe contemporary events. In his special report to the President, the Secretary said:

> Senor Osmena has been one of the most efficient *fiscals,* or prosecuting attorneys, in the Islands, having conducted the government prosecutions in the largest province of the Islands, the province and island of Cebu. He was subsequently elected governor, and by his own activity in going into every part of the island, he succeeded in enlisting the assistance of all the people in suppressing ladronism, which had been rife in the mountains of Cebu for thirty or forty years, so that today there is absolute peace and tranquillity throughout the island. He is a young man not thirty, but of great ability, shrewdness, high ideals, and yet

very practical in his methods of dealing with men and things. The assembly could have done nothing which indicated its good sense so strongly as the selection of Senor Osmena as its presiding officer.

Many words have been scattered about in attempted description of Osmena. He has been called urbane in gaining his ends in negotiation, illimitably patient, serene, wise,